IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said autogenous regulatory factor is a butyrolactone autogenous regulatory factor.
- 5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said autogenous regulatory factor is virginiae butanolide.
- 6. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said gene expression inducing system is involved in a production of an antibiotic.
- 7. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said gene expression inducing system is involved in a production of virginiamycin.
- 8. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said repressor gene is a barA gene.
- 9. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said repressor gene contains a region comprising a nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:1.
- 10. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said repressor gene contains a region coding for an amino acid sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:2.
- 11. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a promoter for said repressor gene is a plant promotor.

- 13. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a nucleotide sequence of said operator is derived from a barA, barB or barX gene.
- 14. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a nucleotide sequence of said operator is BARE-1, BARE-2 or BARE-3.
- 15. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a nucleotide sequence of said operator is BARE-3.
 - 16. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said operator contains a region comprising a nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:3.
 - 17. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a promoter for said gene placed under the control of the operator is a plant promoter.
 - 19. (Amended) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said operator is disposed in at least one place in said plant promoter.
 - 20. (Amended) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said operator is disposed in at least one place in the vicinity of a site 3' downstream or in the vicinity of a site 5' upstream of a TATA box of said plant promoter.

- 21. (Amended) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said operator is disposed, together with the TATA box of said plant promoter, in a manner shown under any of SEQ ID NO:4 through SEQ ID NO:7.
- 22. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said gene placed under the control of the operator is a gene capable of providing the plant with fertility.
 - 23. (Amended) A plant transformed by the method according to Claim 1.
- 24. (Amended) Tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum L.) transformed by the method according to Claim 1.
- 25. (Amended) A cultured plant cell transformed by the method according to Claim 1.
- 26. (Amended) A cultured tobacco cell transformed by the method according to Claim 1.
- 27. (Amended) A cultured tobacco BY2 cell transformed by the method according to Claim 1.
- 30. (Amended) The repressor gene according to Claim 28 wherein said repressor gene is a barA gene.

- 31. (Amended) The repressor gene according to Claim 28 wherein said repressor gene contains a region comprising a nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:1.
- 32. (Amended) The repressor gene according to Claim 28 wherein said repressor gene contains a region coding for an amino acid sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:2.
- 35. (Amended) The modified promoter according to Claim 33, wherein a nucleotide sequence of said operator is BARE-1, BARE-2 or BARE-3.
- 36. (Amended) The modified promoter according to Claim 33, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said operator contains a region comprising a nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:3.
- 37. (Amended) The modified promoter according to Claim 33, wherein said operator is disposed, together with the TATA box of said plant promoter, in a manner shown under any of SEQ ID NO:4 through SEQ ID NO:7.